

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)
Former Linde Site
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where is the Former Linde Site?

The Former Linde Site is located at 175 East Park Drive in the Town of Tonawanda, NY. The site is currently owned by Praxair, Inc, a company that specializes in industrial gasses. Residential areas, a public park and golf course, an elementary school, railroad tracks and other industrial and commercial operations surround the property.

2. How did the site become contaminated?

Between 1942 and 1946, the former Linde Air Products Division of Union Carbide processed uranium ores under contract to the Manhattan Engineer District (MED). Linde was selected to support the MED program because of the company's experience in the ceramics business. MED-related activities resulted in elevated levels of radionuclides in portions of the Linde property and four nearby properties in the Town of Tonawanda (Ashland 1, Ashland 2, Seaway and the Town of Tonawanda Landfill and Mudflats Area). There are separate investigations/cleanups underway for those properties.

3. What contaminants are at the site?

Principal radionuclides of concern at the site are uranium, thorium and radium.

4. Has the site undergone cleanups in the past?

Yes. In 1953, the Linde facilities were cleaned to within radioactive guidelines in effect at that time. Since the site's designation into FUSRAP in 1980, several interim removal actions have been performed. The most recent include:

- 1996 – Demolition and disposal of Building 38;
- 1996 – Decontamination of Building 31;
- 1998 – Interior decontamination of Building 14;
- 1998 – Demolition and disposal of Building 30.

5. What is FUSRAP?

FUSRAP stands for the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, which was initiated in 1974 by Congress to identify, investigate and cleanup or control sites throughout the United States that became contaminated as a result of the Nation's early atomic energy program in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. In October 1997, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of fiscal year 1998 transferred responsibility for the administration and execution of FUSRAP from the Department of Energy to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. To learn more about FUSRAP, please look up the Frequently Asked Questions for FUSRAP on the program's website.

6. What is the current status of the Former Linde Site?

The Former Linde Site is in the Remedial Action phase for the site soils. A Record of Decision (ROD) for contaminated soils was signed in March 2000. Remedial Action began in June 2000 and is ongoing. Soils contaminated above guidelines established in

the ROD are excavated and sent to out of state disposal facilities. Buildings, foundations, slabs and underground drain lines that impede access to the contaminated soils will be demolished as well.

7. Is there contaminated soil off site?

Through research and investigations, the Corps has determined that there are isolated areas on neighboring properties that may have contaminated soils. Property owners are aware of this, and have been instructed to inform the Corps of Engineers before performing any activities on their property that could disturb the soil. Rights of Entry have been obtained for all of the properties, and the Corps is planning on addressing the contamination.

8. Is the site safe?

Yes. It is important to understand that the raw material was shipped off the site many years ago and all that remains is the residual by-product. Access to areas is denied to the general public. The Corps of Engineers is cleaning the site to ensure that if land uses were to change in the future, the land will be safe.

9. Are there other areas of concern as well?

The Former Linde Site has two other Operable Units besides the soil that will be addressed separately. The Corps of Engineers has conducted groundwater sampling and analysis in 2001 to determine potential contamination levels. The Corps of Engineers is scheduled to issue their findings in January 2001.

Building 14 is another operable unit that is being investigated separately. Building 14 was used as a laboratory and pilot plant for studies on uranium separation during the site MED activities. Surveys conducted in 1988 and 1989 found elevated levels of fixed contamination in the first floor and in the staircase between the first and second floor. As a result, additional decontamination work was performed by the Department of Energy in 1996 and completed by the Corps of Engineers in 1998. Even though investigations to date indicate exposure rates within the building are generally well below applicable guidelines, numerous areas that exceed those guidelines still remain inside and underneath the building where they are inaccessible. Removal was not determined to be cost effective and would affect the structural integrity of the building. The Corps of Engineers is currently reassessing Building 14 and is scheduled to release its finding in the near future.

10. I am experiencing health effects that I feel can be attributed to my work at Linde in the past. How can I receive information on compensation?

The Federal government has initiated a program called the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, which is run by the Department of Labor. For more information, call toll-free at 1-866-888-3322 or visit their website at www.dol.gov.

11. How can I receive information about radiation and health effects in general?

For information regarding radiation and its effects on health, please contact:

The New York State Department of Health
Dr. Adela Salame-Alfie: 1-800-458-1158 Ext. 27556
Dr. Karim Rimawi: 1-800-458-1158 Ext. 27550

12. How can I find out more information about the Former Linde Site?

The Corps of Engineers welcomes questions from citizens regarding the Former Linde Site or any other FUSRAP site. Questions may be addressed to: FUSRAP Public Information Center, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207, or call toll-free at 1-800-833-6390. FUSRAP also has an e-mail address at fusrap@usace.army.mil.

The Administrative Record File is another invaluable resource for information on the Former Linde Site. The file contains a collection of documents that form the basis for the decisions made during the environmental restoration of the site. The Administrative Record File is located at the following locations:

FUSRAP Public Information Center
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207

Tonawanda Public Library
333 Main Street
Tonawanda, NY 14150

Please call ahead to ensure facilities are open.